

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S2/24/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 75

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate
				Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	U030U	BLIND SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	1	GRADE SE01
(2)	L038C	REGISTERED NURSE	1	GRADE MP01



(3)	L042C SCHOOL SPEECH PATHOLOGIST	1	GRADE MP01
(4)	E004C SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	2	GRADE GS11
(5)	L040C DIETARY SERVICES DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS09
(6)	E024C TEACHER SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS09
(7)	E035C CERTIFIED MASTERS TEACHER	33	GRADE GS08
(8)	C010C EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS07
(9)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE GS06
(10)	S009C ASD/ASB TRANSPORTATION SERVICES COORD	1	GRADE GS06
(11)	E044C CERTIFIED BACHELORS TEACHER	2	GRADE GS06
(12)	L069C LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	2	GRADE GS06
(13)	M064C RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS05
(14)	S031C SKILLED TRADESMAN	2	GRADE GS05
(15)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	2	GRADE GS04
(16)	S047C LANDSCAPE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS04
(17)	S046C MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	2	GRADE GS04
(18)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	2	GRADE GS03
(19)	C058C EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL	12	GRADE GS03
(20)	S056C FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS03
(21)	V027C INVENTORY CONTROL TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE GS03
(22)	M074C RESIDENTIAL ADVISOR	9	GRADE GS03
(23)	S068C FOOD PREPARATION COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS02
(24)	S086C COOK	6	GRADE GS01
(25)	S087C INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES ASSISTANT	4	GRADE GS01
(26)	S065C MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS01
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	95	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: seventeen (17) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE

BLIND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the School for the Blind Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,299,941
(02) EXTRA HELP	25,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,690,455
(04) OVERTIME	10,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,419,747
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	21,329
(C) PROF. FEES	96,308
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	1,200,000
(07) VOCATIONAL WORKSTUDY	10,000
(08) SUMMER PROJECTS	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$8,847,780</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind - Federal Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$72,405
(02) EXTRA HELP	30,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	26,614
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	

(A) OPER. EXPENSE	732,603
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	60,000
(C) PROF. FEES	164,171
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	85,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,170,793</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - CASH OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind - Cash Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$211,508
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	23,000
(C) PROF. FEES	100,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>125,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$559,508</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT TEXTBOOKS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the School for the Blind Fund Account, for purchasing, copying, and shipping braille and large print textbooks for the blind and visually impaired students attending public schools in Arkansas by the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind - Braille and Large Print Textbooks for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) BRAILLE AND LARGE PRINT TEXTBOOKS	<u><u>\$223,024</u></u>

SECTION 7. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. There is hereby established for the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	U029U	DEAF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	1	GRADE SE01
(2)	L027C	REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE MP02
(3)	L045C	AUDIOLOGIST	1	GRADE MP01
(4)	L038C	REGISTERED NURSE	1	GRADE MP01
(5)	L042C	SCHOOL SPEECH PATHOLOGIST	5	GRADE MP01
(6)	D063C	COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT05
(7)	D071C	COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST	2	GRADE IT03
(8)	E004C	SCHOOL PRINCIPAL	1	GRADE GS11
(9)	E017C	ASST PRINCIPAL	1	GRADE GS10
(10)	E013C	EDUCATION PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE GS10
(11)	E036C	CERTIFIED MASTERS DEGREE LIBRARIAN	1	GRADE GS09
(12)	L040C	DIETARY SERVICES DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS09
(13)	E022C	EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
(14)	E025C	EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS09
(15)	E015C	SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS09
(16)	E035C	CERTIFIED MASTERS TEACHER	34	GRADE GS08
(17)	M088C	LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER	1	GRADE GS08
(18)	M020C	LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR	1	GRADE GS08
(19)	E029C	SIGN LANGUAGE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS08
(20)	E032C	EDUCATION COUNSELOR	2	GRADE GS07
(21)	C010C	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS07
(22)	G147C	GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(23)	M024C	RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07
(24)	L069C	LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	2	GRADE GS06
(25)	M064C	RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES SUPERVISOR	3	GRADE GS05
(26)	S031C	SKILLED TRADESMAN	2	GRADE GS05

(27)	S038C TRANSIT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS05
(28)	V018C WAREHOUSE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS05
(29)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	1	GRADE GS04
(30)	L078C FAMILY SERVICES ASSISTANT	1	GRADE GS04
(31)	A098C FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
(32)	S047C LANDSCAPE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS04
(33)	S046C MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	3	GRADE GS04
(34)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	5	GRADE GS03
(35)	L082C CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	1	GRADE GS03
(36)	C058C EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL	19	GRADE GS03
(37)	S056C FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS03
(38)	C053C MEDICAL RECORDS TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE GS03
(39)	M074C RESIDENTIAL ADVISOR	21	GRADE GS03
(40)	S068C FOOD PREPARATION COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS02
(41)	S084C INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS02
(42)	S086C COOK	7	GRADE GS01
(43)	S065C MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT	<u>3</u>	GRADE GS01
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	140	

SECTION 8. EXTRA HELP - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: fifty-five (55) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the School for the Deaf Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$6,732,040
(02) EXTRA HELP	95,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,631,059
(04) OVERTIME	25,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,752,763
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
(C) PROF. FEES	15,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	1,519,627
(07) VOCATIONAL WORKSTUDY	10,000
(08) MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$12,865,489</u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - FEDERAL OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf - Federal Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$55,000
(02) EXTRA HELP	39,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	28,832
(04) OVERTIME	8,393
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	627,417
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	60,000
(C) PROF. FEES	245,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	90,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,153,642</u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - CASH OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for operating expenses of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf - Cash Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$228,136
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
(C) PROF. FEES	26,864
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	45,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$375,000</u></u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - STUDENT NEEDS AND CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS - ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Education, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for student needs and campus enhancements of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf - Student Needs and Campus Enhancements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) STUDENT NEEDS AND CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS	<u><u>\$250,000</u></u>

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Arkansas School for the Blind shall transfer appropriation from the Summer Projects line item, in the State Operations Appropriation of this Act, to the Regular Salaries, Extra Help,

Personal Services Matching, Overtime and Maintenance & General Operations line items in the State Operations Appropriation of this Act, to compensate staff who work during the summer months on summer projects, and to cover other expenses of summer project activities. The Summer Projects line item may also be used for the annual cost related to the compensation of eligible staff for shift differential pay as well as compensation of employees for performance of duties assigned as referenced in the Special Allowance Special Language Section of this Act. Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

ADE - ASB/ASD - SUMMER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES. ~~Employees who, in addition to working during the regular school term, also work during summer months shall be authorized as additional compensation an amount not to exceed 1/12 of their annual salary for each month or part thereof worked. Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees. Payment of additional compensation shall be limited to employees in the following classifications:~~

CLASS CODE	SUMMER SCHOOL POSITIONS	GRADE
E044C	Certified Bachelor's Teacher	GS06
M026C	Licensed Social Worker	GS07
M020C	Licensed Professional Counselor	GS08
E035C	Certified Masters Teacher	GS08
M088C	Licensed Master Social Worker	GS08
E024C	Teacher Supervisor	GS09
E025C	Educational Specialist	GS09
E017C	Assistant Principal	GS10
_____E026C	Education & Instruction Coordinator	GS08
_____E015C	Special Education Supervisor	GS09

Exempt employees who require job responsibilities less than 2080 hours may work during summer months with approval from school Superintendent. Said employees shall be authorized as additional compensation an amount not to exceed 1/12 of their annual salary for each month or part thereof worked.

Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

CARRY FORWARD OF FUNDS - ASB.

(a) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall cause to be transferred on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and Auditor of State the balance of General Revenue funds remaining in the School for the Blind Fund Account on June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025 into a sub-fund created within the School for the Blind Fund Account to be used for special maintenance, renovations, or future construction projects of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind.

(b) Any carry forward of the unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) The Office of Budget of the Department of Finance and Administration shall report to the Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September meeting of the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the agency, board, commission, or institution and the amount of funding carried forward, the program name or line item and the funding source; and

(2) The Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Blind shall provide a written report to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in subdivision (b)(1) of this section no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Department presents its budget request to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, or both; and

(3) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in subdivision (b)(2) of this section in the budget manuals.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF - TRANSFER PROVISION. Upon approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Arkansas School for the Deaf shall transfer appropriation from the Miscellaneous Activities line item in the State Operations Appropriation of this Act, to the Regular Salaries, Extra Help, Personal Service Matching, Overtime, and Maintenance and General Operations line items also in the State Operations Appropriation, to compensate staff who work during the summer months on summer projects and to cover other expenses of summer project activities. The Miscellaneous Activities line item may also be used for the annual cost related to the payment of contracted interpreter services, compensation of eligible staff for shift differential pay, and compensation of employees for performance of duties assigned as referenced in the Special Allowance Special Language of this Act. Such additional compensation shall not be construed as exceeding the maximum salary authorized for said employees.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
CARRY FORWARD OF FUNDS - ASD.

(a) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall cause to be transferred on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and Auditor of State the balance of General Revenue funds remaining in the School for the Deaf Fund Account on June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025 into a sub-fund created within the School for the Deaf Fund Account to be used for special maintenance, renovations, or future construction projects of the Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf.

(b) Any carry forward of the unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) The Office of Budget of the Department of Finance and Administration shall report to the Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September meeting of the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the agency, board, commission, or institution and the amount of funding carried forward, the program name or line item and the funding source; and

(2) The Department of Education - Arkansas School for the Deaf shall provide a written report to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in subdivision (b)(1) of this section no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Department presents its budget request to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, or both; and

(3) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in subdivision (b)(2) of this section in the budget manuals.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024-2025~~ through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 18. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 19. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 20. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2025 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in

the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2025 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2025.

/s/Joint Budget Committee